Kambot language

Kambot AKA **Ap Ma** (Ap Ma Botin, Botin, also *Karaube*), is a Keram language of Papua New Guinea. Compared to its nearest relative, Ambakich, Kambot drops the first segment from polysyllabic words.[3]

Kambot is spoken in Kambot village (4.281558°S 144.139582°E), Keram Rural LLG, East Sepik Province.[4][5]

Kambot	
Ap Ma	
Native to	Papua New Guinea
Region	East Sepik Province
Native speakers	10,000 (2010)[1]
Language family	Ramu–Keram ▪ Keram ▪ East Keram ▪ **Kambot**
Dialects	Kambaramba
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	kbx
Glottolog	apma1241 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/apma1241)[2]

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Classification

Kambot was assigned to the Grass family within Ramu by Laycock and Z'graggen (1975). Foley (2005) finds the data does not support this assignment, but re-adds them to the Grass family in 2018.[6] Foley and Ross (2005) agree that the language belongs to the Ramu – Lower Sepik family.[7] Usher restores it to the Ramu family, but closer to the Mongol–Langam languages.

Phonology

Ap Ma consonants are:[6]

p	t	k	
ᵐb	ⁿd	ᶮʤ	ᵑg
m	n	ɲ	ŋ
	s		
	r ~ l		
w	j		

Pronouns

Foley (1986) proposed that Kambot had borrowed its pronouns from the Iatmul language of the Sepik family (Ndu languages). His suggestion was that *nyɨ̇* 'I' (1sg), *wɨ̇n* 'thou' (2sg), and *nun* 'ye' (2pl) are taken from Iatmul *nyɨ̇n* 'thou', *wɨ̇n* 'I', and *nɨ̇n* 'we', with a crossover of person. That is, the Iatmul may have

called the Kambot *nyɨn* "you", and they then used that pronoun for themselves, resulting in it meaning "I". However, Ross (2005) and Pawley (2005) show that the pronoun set has not been borrowed. The Kambot pronouns are indigenous, as they have apparent cognates in Ramu languages. Similarly, the Iatmul pronouns have not been borrowed from Kambot, as they have cognates in other Ndu languages.[7]

Comparison of Kambot PNs with Ramu languages

PN	Kambot	Kambaramba	Banaro	Langam	Arafundi
1sg	nyɨ	ni	(uŋgu)	ñi	ñiŋ
2sg	wɨn	wɨ	u	wo	(nan)
2pl	nun	(wɨni)	nu	(wuni)	nuŋ

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